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27 October 1988
OCA 3602-88

MEMORANDUM FOR: Director of Central Intelligence

FROM: John L. Helgerson
Director of Congressional Affairs

SUBJECT: Legislative Highlights of the 100th Congress

1. During the 100th Congress, the legislative agenda from the Agency's perspective was dominated by fallout from the Iran/Contra affair. Our most significant accomplishment was in resisting or modifying various proposals made by Members intended to tighten Congressional oversight, but which would have weakened your authority to protect sensitive information and operations from disclosure.

2. The principal proposed means to expand Congressional oversight of intelligence activities was the Intelligence Oversight Act of 1988. Other proposals to increase Congressional oversight included provisions for a statutory Inspector General at CIA and GAO access to Agency information. The Intelligence Oversight bill died in Congress in large part because of the firm opposition by the President and the Agency to the mandatory 48-hour Congressional notification of all covert actions. The Agency also successfully resisted legislative proposals mandating both a statutory Inspector General and GAO access to Agency information, although we did agree to make available to the Intelligence Committees additional reports on the activities of the Inspector General and to cooperate with the Senate Intelligence Committee's audit team.

3. In addition to demands for stricter Congressional oversight of intelligence activities, the Agency also had to contend with a range of other legislative proposals that would have adversely impacted on our activities. The anti-drug abuse legislation was of particular concern to the Agency because of provisions in the legislation that created a powerful drug czar and mandated the sharing of intelligence information on illegal narcotics activities with GAO and other committees of Congress.

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[redacted]
from legislation restricting the use of the polygraph and
legislation that imposed new restrictions on dealing with
countries that support terrorism. [redacted]

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4. In the area of legislation affecting compensation for our employees, proposals to expand benefits for employees of this Agency and other members of the Intelligence Community have been placed on hold pending completion of the National Association of Public Administrators' study on this subject. The report will be finished by the end of this year, and I am hopeful that it would allow us to move forward with proposals that would enhance employee compensation and benefits. In the meantime, we have fought a rear-guard action in Congress to maintain the existing benefits for our employees.

5. My staff has prepared a detailed summary of the legislative highlights of the 100th Congress, and what we expect to happen on these issues during the next Congress. I have attached for your information a copy of this summary.

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[redacted]
John L. Helgeson

Attachment
as stated

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SUBJECT: Memo to DCI dtd 27 Oct 88 re Legislative
Accomplishments During the 100th Congress
(OCA 3602-88)

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